

PH0002828

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Clarke
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 12 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Sledge House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
749 Cobb Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13** COUNTY: **Clarke** CODE: **059**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Rented to students</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wm. B. Mulherin, Roger L. Swingle, Billups P. Tillman, Hugh Haston

STREET AND NUMBER:
Athens Orthopedic Clinic, Cobb Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clarke County Courthouse, Deed Book 291, p.592

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

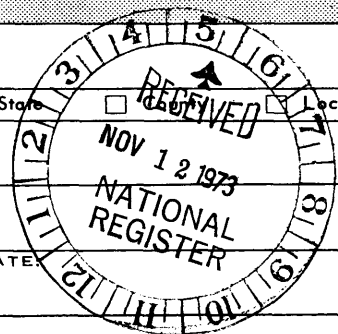
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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COUNTY: **Clarke**

ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 12 1974**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sledge House, little changed from the c.1860 original, is a Gothic style cottage.

Exterior: On a large lot, framed by fine trees, the Sledge House is a large-scale cottage of one and a half stories and nearly square in floor plan. Its most striking features, and those which give it its Gothic flavor, are the tall, steeply-pitched roof and the three tall triangular dormers which pierce it. A one-story veranda, with pillars, railing, and decorations in open-work cast iron, extends across the front of the house. The house is of white painted stuccoed brick, with walls about eighteen inches thick and with dormers of clapboard. The windows, except those in the dormers, have blinds (some now missing). There are two paneled, stuccoed interior chimneys at each end. Pointed louvers in the dormers and gables provide attic ventilation. The metal veranda roof has a marked concave curve with iron finials that decorate its roof line. Solid basement walls raise the house about three feet off the ground.

The walnut double front door, which has wooden bosses and vertical panels headed by a round arch, is framed by etched glass transom and side lights. The same round arches and bosses are used in the deep jamb casing. The single windows on either side of the door are both wide and high, almost floor length, having six large panes; the second story windows are generally six-over-six with small panes. The back door, at the end of the central hall, is also double-leaved and has side lights.

None of the original dependencies remain in the back yard that appeared on the W. W. Thomas map of Athens of 1874. A veranda ran across the back of the house. After 1874, probably in the 1880's or 90's, a one-story wing was added on each side in back, one providing a bath, the other a kitchen and laundry. Two of the gabled back dormers were altered, probably at the same time, as an upstairs bath was added. The wings have a steep roof consonant with the main body of the house, and vertical corner moldings which curve inward to form a molding running up the gable ends under the roof line.

Interior: As originally, the house consists of a wide central hall with stairs, four large square rooms downstairs and four bedrooms upstairs plus a smaller room in the middle dormer. Each room has a fireplace. The mantels throughout are cast iron and all fireplace openings are rounded and fitted for grates. The motifs of the front door are used on the interior doors: round-arched vertical panels and wooden bosses. Wide moldings, in cross-section a series of convex curves, frame the door and window openings and the striking ogee arch in the front hall, behind which rise the stairs. The arch is hung with broad double doors, curved and pointed to fit the ogee shape. All this woodwork is solid walnut, but it was unfortunately painted white in 1950, except for the newel post and banister. The newel post combines light oak and walnut in contrasting panels. A second bath was recently added upstairs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c.1860

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sledge House, built c.1860, is an outstanding example of the Gothic style and is especially unusual since it is located in Athens, one of the most splendid Greek Revival oriented towns in Georgia.

Ferdinand Phinzy - land owner, money lender and reputedly Athens' first millionaire - owned the Sledge House tract of land before 1860. In 1860 James A. Sledge, owner and editor of the Southern Banner, bought the tract and at some point in time the house was built on the side that now fronts on Cobb Street. (It is not possible to prove whether Phinzy built it before 1860, but it is most likely, as traditionally thought, to have been built by Sledge.) In 1866, however, Sledge mortgaged his property to Phinzy and in 1868 the latter foreclosed. Phinzy then bought back the house at the sheriff's sale and sold it to Lamar Cobb. The Sledge family regained possession of the house in 1897, when E. D. Sledge bought it from Mrs. Lamar Cobb, his mother-in-law. Since then the house has had a number of owners.

Architecturally the Sledge House is an important example of the Gothic style in the South. Although the Gothic style enjoyed a wide vogue in the Northeast and Midwest, fewer examples appeared in the South which remained more faithful to the Greek Revival. The Sledge House is the only structure of predominately Gothic inspiration in Athens which survives.

Just as the Greek Revival flourished on a rootstock of indigenous, or plantation plain architecture, so the Sledge House grew from the same rootstock. The two room, central hall floor plan, the long verandas, the window blinds, all were standard in the South for many decades. Other of its features that are commonly found in mid-nineteenth century houses include the plaster cove molding, the round-arch fireplace openings, the elaborate cast iron of the veranda and the carvings on the staircase stringer. Among the unusual features of the house are the concave curve of the veranda roof, the cast iron mantels, and the unique interior woodwork including the heavy walnut molding framing the hall arch, the door and window openings and the tall walnut doors with their characteristic round-arch and boss design.

Presently the Sledge House is located on a pleasant, tree-shaded street, but one in transition. The former residence next door has been converted to a clinic by a group of doctors who have also recently purchased

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clarke County, Georgia official documents: Deeds, tax records, mortgage records, Superior Court minutes
 Cooper, Patricia Irvin, personal inspections, February-March 1973; prepared original draft of National Register nomination form, on file.
 Hull, A. L., Annals of Athens, Georgia 1801-1901, Athens, Banner Job Office, 1906
 Morris, Sylvanus, Strolls about Athens during the Early Seventies, Athens, first printed 1912, reprint by Athens Historical Society, 1969.
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Consultant, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

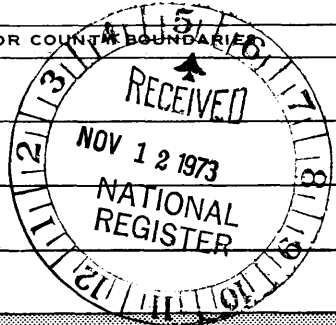
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "	33	57	38	
SW	° ' "	° ' "	83	23	48	

UTM
 17/2785
 3760160

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/4 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources DATE: Sept. 15, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 270 Washington Street, Room 703C

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Mary G. Jewett

Title State Hist. Pres. Officer

Date Oct 17, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/12/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 2.6.74

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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance

the Sledge House. The doctors hope to sell the house, and a part of the lot, to someone who would be interested in its preservation. Listing on the National Register would encourage present and future owners to respect and insure the preservation of the Sledge House.

